Nation

Volume 19, No. 23 • September 21, 2012

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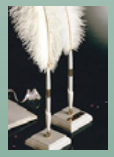

United we stand

by Will Nicholls

It's difficult to write an editorial that breaks a long-running guideline we have at the *Nation*. We do not target people but rather the issue, position or other components of a news story. We feel that the substance of a story and how it affects our readers is more important than who it may be about.

In this case, I must realize that this is not always possible. While criticism of *Nation* articles is to be expected – and we've had our share – we stand behind everything we publish. When we do make a mistake we own up to it. Our journalists write the stories to the best of their ability after getting as much information as is possible. Their integrity is not at question. It's a part of their job description.

Thus, when they face unfounded attacks, we must respond as an entity with loyalty to our employees. To do otherwise would go against all we valued when we started the *Nation*. Attached to that is a way to respond to what they have written. Almost every letter to the editor is printed. The Editorial Board makes the final decision on letters. While angry rants are discouraged, an opinion concerning any story (including criticism of the writer or the *Nation*) is usually printed. We allow letter writers equal space. If a story was 650 words long, they can write up to 650 words in their response.

It's easy to be bitter or angry. It's harder to overcome it and see what is front of you. And to Pakesso Mukash, one of our harshest and most persistent critics in series of posts on his Facebook page, I will say that I am sorry. I am sorry I didn't do a story on the evil of Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come. I am sorry I couldn't buy into that type of hatred.

I know your anger. But your father taught me many things. As a leader, Matthew chose the path of consensus. He looked to bring us all together in agreement, something that is very difficult to achieve. In the past, during the Great Whale battle, I sometimes teamed up with your dad. I learnt to respect the man I had met and that respect grew and continues to this day. Your dad was an important and needed person in those times. I also was on the frontlines of that struggle, but in the end it never mattered who did what but that the Cree, as a Nation and as a People, had the project shelved! The battle was bigger than any one of us and we all knew it.

If history is being changed you know the *Nation* is there to share and illuminate new information. Our feature by Iggy La Rusic last year on who did what during the early 1970s battle to defend our lands against Hydro-Québec, a battle that ultimately led to the signing of the JBNQA, is a prime example.

But when Great Whale rolled around, Matthew Coon Come was Grand Chief, the spokesperson for the Cree of Eeyou Istchee. This does not negate your dad's contributions to the fight. But there was not, as you have alleged, any "fact-fail" in our coverage of this key period in our history. For instance, we have never seen, as you have written, Grand Chief Coon Come take credit for the idea or design of the Odeyak canoe. Nor was the "surprising" revelation of Coon Come's association with Labrador Iron Mines any real surprise. The *Nation* already published that information long ago.

I don't want to belabour the point, but limited viewpoints restrict opportunities for constructive debate. Anytime you wish to discuss the facts of a story or the integrity of any person writing for the *Nation* feel free to contact me or write a letter to the Editorial Board of the *Nation*.

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photo by:
Ernest Webb

on the cover:
Robert and Janie Kanatewat

The ATM refused me

by Sonny Orr

I put my card in the ATM, and it said to me, this card is no good. And I said, what kind of crap is this? My money is good everywhere. Then I discover that our own bank is on a mission to liberate our money from the grasps of the many banks that control our funds and make incredible amounts of money from interest. Kudos, I say, this is just a blip on the way of our very own First Nations freedom. Finally, our money is actually our own.

Although the ATM refused me, eventually, they will have to deal with reality – we have our own money and our own system to manage it. Don't worry, things will settle down and we will appreciate the great sacrifice we make towards our own freedom of choice and how we manage our own lives. Managing our own money is just at start.

Thanks to creditable organizations that don't care about the colour we are, I managed just fine, during the transition from dependence to self-sufficiency. The road to dependence is riddled with potholes and roadblocks. I make my way from my hometown to my final destination, which is Wendake, Quebec.

Wendake is a nation of Huron-Wendats who had to live with the values of a people who had to take the loser's position, but this is what made them a strong people. Sometime, it takes a strong people to make what may look like a loser's position who were offered next to nothing, to a winning position which makes them a vibrant and strong community. This takes guts and courage and never-ending hope that there is no end to hopelessness, to a position that there is a way to overcome the unfairness of a dominate society and come out on top.

In a parcel of land that measures a few squared kilometres, the Huron Eeyou (that's about as close as I can come to the Wendats in English). This is probably the highest concentration of First Nations business in Quebec. This comes from an incredible pressure that originates from a war long lost between the main rivals – the English and the French. (Oh, who were their allies? Lest we all forget.)

The present state of Wendats teaches us that whenever a people are suppressed, they will find a way to overcome their oppression, and be the pioneers in the eyes of the rest of the world. Huron-Wendat people are not suppressed as the history books like to teach us. The Wendats have never succumb to suppression and are well on the way towards economic self-sufficiency. This did not happen overnight. They are fighters as are the rest of our Nations. As I finish my journey I continue to learn, grow and immerse myself in knowledge that not only empowers me, but which will empower my people, now and in the future.

The Wendats did not rest. Shall we all rest in the face of adversity? Shall we lay our big guns down and never lift the weight again. I know that the warrior in me continues to fight for you and all people. This message is for all those who wish to listen to me and think about peace. Peace out.

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L. Stewart, W. Nicholls, N. Diamond, E. Webb
EDITOR IN CHIEF
Will Nicholls
IYIYUU AYIMUUN EDITOR
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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
R. Sheshamush, S. Orr, A. German, D. Coyle, A. Levitas, L. Stewart, J. Staniforth, M. Della Posta, X. Kataquapit,
PHOTOGRAPHY
A. German, N. Diamond, W. Nicholls, D. Valade
DIRECTOR OF FINANCES
Linda Ludwick
SALES REPRESENTATIVES
Danielle Valade, Ginette Grégoire
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
K. Larocque
DESIGN AND LAYOUT
R. Lawson
THANKS TO: Air Creebec
WHERE TO REACH US:
POSTMASTER:
The Nation PRODUCTION OFFICE
4529 CLARK, #403
MONTREAL, QC., H2T 2T3
EDITORIAL & ADS
TEL.: 514-272-3077, FAX: 514-278-9914
The Nation HEAD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 151, CHISASIBI, QC. J0M 1E0
www.nationnews.ca
E-MAIL ADDRESSES:
Editorial: nation@beesum-communications.com
news@beesum-communications.com
Ads: for Danielle Valade
ads@beesum-communications.com
for Ginette Gregoire
publicity@beesum-communications.com
Classifieds: Séri Jacobs-Pepin
sjacobs@beesum-communications.com
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Broadening your horizons

Internships for Aboriginal Youth leave a lasting impression

by Akiva Levitas

Are you between the ages of 18-35? If so, the Canada World Youth organization (CWY) has an exciting and life-changing experience available for you.

In the words of Jeremy Neeposh, a 26-year-old from Mistissini, the trip with CWY was "a great way to see the world". In June, he returned from a four-month internship in Africa and wanted to share his experience. Neeposh knew about the program as he had already done three other internships abroad.

As part of its International Aboriginal Youth Internships Initiative, the CWY has been hosting 10 international internships with the aim of improving their skills and employability of Aboriginal youth along with offering them a chance to engage in international development.

The 10 interns who are selected are sent either to Nicaragua, Peru or Tanzania. Before they even leave Canada, there is a weeklong pre-departure training in Toronto as well as a briefing, evaluation and training session in preparation for the four-month overseas internship.

Neeposh picked the Tanzanian internship since he had never been to Africa and wanted to check out the local culture for himself. When he got there, he was surprised how different it was from our preconceived notions of Africa. Upon his return to Canada people asked him what it was like. He replied, "It was nothing I ever imagined it would be. Nothing I saw on TV about Africa was true. It was very different, what my eyes have seen. I was in awe."

During the internship, the youths live with a local host family in the community where they are volunteers. In Neeposh's case, his host family was, simply put, "awesome". During his time there, the host family's son became a little brother to Neeposh. The boy's curiosity left a lasting impression on Neeposh.

Each destination offers a different experience for the Aboriginal youths. In Nicaragua, interns will be working in Estell with the non-profit organization FUNARTE. They will be working together to combat school violence as well as strengthening gender equality through art and sensitization campaigns.

Interns who go to Peru will be based in Palca and they will work alongside the Brigada de Voluntarios Bolivarianos del Peru. This internship will promote a healthy homes initiative where interns will be addressing domestic health issues as well as building eco-friendly stoves and refrigerators.

Sustainability is the theme of the Tanzanian internship. The volunteers will be staying in the Chamazi district, where they will be working at an eco-village operated by Uvikiuta, an independent non-governmental organization that works with youth. The project promotes environmental conservation through sustainable planning and practices.

The Tanzanian internship was divided into four different areas of volunteering. For the first month, Neeposh helped out in a school taking care of children with special needs. The next month was spent working at Uvikiuta's office.

The environmental sustainability took centre stage in the third month when Neeposh assisted in the planting of trees in Zanzibar. And for the final month of the internship, Neeposh got to coordinate with volunteers from Kenya for community work.

After their overseas internships, the Aboriginal youths are required to volunteer in their home communities to promote international development aid. The youths also give public speeches relating their experiences to their fellow community members.

These internships are about more than just receiving valuable work experience and training, they are about inspiring the next generation of Aboriginal leaders. The skills that will be conferred to the participants will only serve to promote sustainable development in their home communities.

The CWY was founded in 1971 and has been a world leader in the development of international educational programs for youth between the ages of 15-35. The programs that the CWY has developed were designed to encourage young Canadians from all backgrounds to experience the world for themselves and give them the opportunity to learn about foreign cultures and languages.

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Let's start digging

Stornoway moves closer to opening its diamond mine

by Mark Della Posta

The Stornoway Diamond Corporation has moved yet another step closer to opening the Renard Diamond Mine, the first of its kind in Quebec.

Matt Manson, the President and CEO of Stornoway, announced on August 30 that the company had successfully completed the public hearings held by COMEX, the review committee established under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, in both Mistissini and Chibougamau.

Speaking on behalf of Stornoway, Vice-President of Public Affairs Ghislain Poirier described the hearing as an important step on the way to officially setting up shop in the Otish Mountains, north of Mistissini.

"In principle, this is the final phase of public consultations at the provincial level," he said. "These hearings will allow COMEX to determine that the project is socially acceptable."

Although the hearings were an important step in the overall process, Poirier was confident that Stornoway had gone above and beyond to ensure that the project would be embraced by local communities, specifically the Cree community of Mistissini.

He referred to the Mecheshoo agreement, signed in March, in which Stornoway pledged that 50% of the Renard Diamond Mine's workforce would be made up of Crees from Mistissini.

"We worked hard," he said. "What the Mecheshoo agreement shows, is that we are well aware of the aspirations of the community. We understand their needs and their expectations of the project.

"I'm pleased to say that we didn't negotiate an agreement with them, but we built an agreement with them," he said.

Poirier also explained that Stornoway is completely committed to ensuring the transparency of the Renard project, in order to demonstrate to the local Cree community that the company is mindful of their interests.

"We submitted our environmental and social study last December," he said. "And all of this was made public, including the restoration plan. All of it is on our website. We weren't obligated to do it, but we wanted to be transparent."

The completion of the public hearings is yet another sign that the Renard project is progressing smoothly. Poirier explained that the hearings were some of the final steps in long process.

"What we're waiting for is the certificate of authorization, which we should get by the end of the year," he said. "That's really the key that will allow us to start building the mine."

Earlier this summer, Stornoway announced that it was moving its head office from Northern B.C. to the Montreal area, demonstrating the importance of their operations in Quebec and their confidence in the Renard project.

Speaking at a press conference in June, Manson said the project will bring $800 million worth of investment and create 450 to 500 jobs. At the time, Stornoway had also pledged to try and involve members of the Cree community into the management side of the company. Vice-President Patrick Godin explained that the company plans to have specific training and promotion plans for Cree workers wanting to advance within the organization.

Aside from the value of the public hearings, Poirier also commented on the recent changes in the provincial government, and said he doesn't foresee any major problems that this may cause.

"We are facing an administrative process, and not a political process," he said. "The two are completely detached from one another."

The Renard Diamond Mine is expected to have a mine-life of at least 11 years. According to Stornoway, 99% of the diamonds mined at the site are expected to be of gem quality, meaning they are suitable for jewelry. Over its lifetime, the project is expected to yield just over $4 billion worth of diamonds.

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Wes Prankard

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Wes Prankard building playground

Traveling filmmakers arrive home in Montreal

The award-winning studio-on-wheels Wapikoni Mobile comes home to Montreal this fall, offering local youth opportunities for hands-on training in audiovisual techniques, scriptwriting and music recording.

The workshop will be held throughout the fall at the Bonsecours Market's Eleven Nation exhibition room. Sessions will be held from 5 pm to 8 pm, Monday through Wednesday, and from 11 am to 2 pm on the weekends, starting on September 22 and continuing through to November 11.

Professional filmmakers François Jacob and Melanie O'Bomsawin supervise the workshops and, along with their team, impart their knowledge and experience in the fields of shooting, miking and editing film and animation, as well as recording music in a professional studio.

All First Nations youth aged between 15 and 30 are eligible, and all that is required is a keen interest in making a short film and learning about the film- or music-making process. And thanks to help from the Forum jeunesse de l'Ile de Montréal, the workshops are free.

Wapikoni Mobile, founded in 2004 by documentary filmmaker Manon Barbeau, operates on the mandate of connecting Aboriginal youth through audiovisual and filmmaking workshops. In doing this, Wapikoni aims to provide youth with a route to lessen their isolation and open their access to outside cultures; the youth then become liaisons between the underrepresented contemporary Native culture and the wider Canadian and international communities.

The Commission on Human Rights and the rights of Youth in Quebec recently awarded it the "Droits and libertés 2011" award for their work with Aboriginal youth.

For more info: www.wapikoni.tv

Timmy's coming to Mistissini

Cree entrepreneurs Anthony and Elaine MacLeod caused quite a stir on September 4 when they announced they were bringing Tim Horton's to Mistissini. Though they expect to be up and running by early 2013, Mistissini residents were welcoming. Anthony MacLeod said since the announcement they have had over 555 Facebook responses saying they like the idea.

MacLeod said, "This is good for the community and region. This business could translate into 20 or more jobs for Mistissini."

For those with that most important of questions – yes, there will be a drive through.

Corrections to "Providing Shelter"

There may have been some confusion over the article "Providing Shelter" in the last issue of *the Nation* (Vol. 19, No. 22; Sept. 7, 2012)

Just to clarify, the new facility that is opening is a completely new organization called the Montreal Native Community Development Centre with new services under the vision and philosophy of the National Association for Native Friendship Centres.

The new organization has no links to the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal (NFCM) which has the name registered. The Native Friendship Centre is not focused solely on the needs of the city's struggling Aboriginals, but on the entire community with services and events organized to meet everyone's needs.

As well, the drive to collect funds is not for the purchase of a new building. There never was any talk of moving from the current NFCM location.

Comic strip courtesy of Tundra Comics: www.tundracomics.com

SURE, SOME MAY CALL IT THE RAMPANT, WASTEFUL CONSUMERISM OF AN IRRESPONSIBLE SOCIETY, BUT AS A LIFELONG SCAVENGER, I CALL IT JOB SECURITY.
NO PARKING

feature

Recognizing our own

The Cree Nation Achievement Awards were held at the foot of Mont-Tremblant

by Ernest Webb

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come, President of the Cree Nation Achievement Awards Foundation, remarked that the Cree Nation Achievement Awards Gala was "an historical evening to recognize those who've contributed to the communities". The gathering on August 30 wanted to recognize those who made their mark on the Cree Nation.

In September 2010, the Cree Nation Achievement Awards Foundation held the first fundraiser to get the organization off to a good start. It was a promising sign when a painting went for thousands of dollars at an auction during that opening gala. Since then, Cree and non-Cree leaders as well as business people come together in Mont-Tremblant for a golf tournament and gala to help keep the foundation solid footing.

Since that first gala two years ago, numerous awards have been given out to honour the people who've made contributions to the Cree Nation. This year, the Crees and their guests assembled at the foot of Mont-Tremblant on August 30 for the gala and golf tournament. Mont-Tremblant mayor Pierre Pilon welcomed everyone and even used quite a few Cree words in his speech. This impressed people who are used to hearing dignitaries mangle our language. To make sure the night went smoothly the gala was in the capable hands of Youth Grand Chief Joshua Iserhoff and Tina Petawabano, Director of Quebec Relations for the Grand Council of the Crees.

John Paul Murdoch, corporate secretary for the Grand Council, and Kenny Loon, legal and policy advisor, were the guest speakers of the evening. They spoke of their life experiences and how they persevered to reach their goals. Murdoch talked of how he had to relearn the Cree language in order to serve the Crees. When he returned home after his schooling, he was tasked with presenting the off-shore agreement to the communities along the coast and having Rod Pachano throw him in the ring to explain the agreement. It made his mother proud to have him speak Cree so well when they got back to Waskaganish.

Later on Loon was invited to tell his story of struggle and ultimate success. His journey has been one of many twists and turns. Starting as a young print reporter, Loon eventually attended university and past the bar exam. Along the way he and his family learnt perseverance and sacrifice.

Coon Come and Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff handed out the first round of awards for the evening.

The award for Leadership and Community Service was given to Robert Kanatewat, 78, a former chief of Fort George (Chisasibi) at the time of the original James Bay Agreement. He was one of the signatories and went on nego-

tiate the Cree-Naskapi Agreement and sit on the Cree-Naskapi Commission along with being a businessman with Kepa Transport.

Robbie Matthew of Chisasibi picked up the Cree Language and Cultural Knowledge, Special Recognition Award. A former chief of Chisasibi, Matthew, along with his late wife, worked tirelessly for the Cree Nation in all sectors, including education, politics and spiritual life. One story that stands out for me about Matthew and his wife is when they took in troubled youths and turned their lives around. One friend credits his time with them out on the land as the only thing that was able to help him heal. Matthew still works for the betterment of the youth, Elders and the community.

The Women's Contribution Award went to Jane Pachano, who is a trailblazer in the Cree Nation. She published her autobiography, Geniesh: An Indian Girlhood, in 1973 and has led a political life since the mid-'70s. Working in the Cree history and cultural realm, Pachano delved deep into her extended family's history and genealogy to find the cause of a hereditary disease that she traced back to three workers of the Hudson's Bay Company in the 1700s. Today the disease is known as Cree leukoencephalitis.

To present the Academic Excellence Award was the Grand Chief and Darlene Cheechoo, the vice chair at the Cree School Board.

The Academic Excellence Award (College) went to Monica Parceaud, who maintained 85% and 90% averages during her time in college.

Corey Coon-Come, with a Lieutenant Governor's Award to his name along with being on the Dean's List among other honours, also received an award.

With Honours and a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.50 in the Civil Engineering Technology program at the Cambrian College of Applied Arts & Technology in Sudbury, Jaris Gull was also honoured.

Joey James Joseph Georgekish was awarded the Academic Excellence Award (University Bachelor's Degree).

He graduated with high honours in Psychology from Carleton University and was on the Dean's Honours List and received the William E. Beckel Scholarship.

Frances Kawapit received an Academic Excellence Award (University Bachelor's Degree). She graduated from the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a GPA of 3.86. Kawapit also works in the community in a women's support group.

Christopher Diamond was honoured with an award. He graduated from the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a GPA of 3.24.

Donald Nicholls, Director of the Justice Department with the CRA, also received an award. Among his academic achievements, Nicholls holds

The Cree Indian Center of Chibougamau wishes to inform its members that it's time for the Annual General Assembly

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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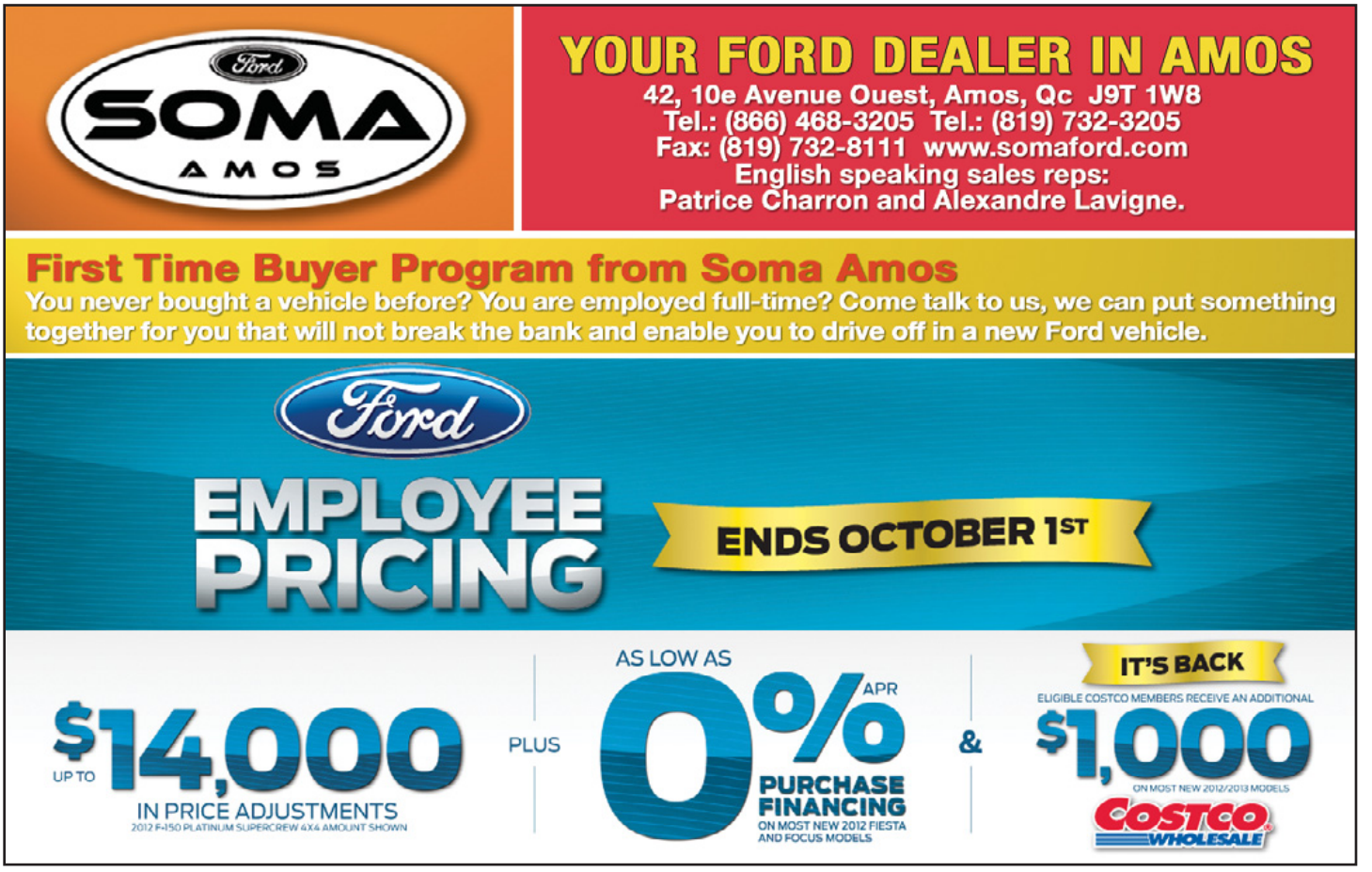
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four degrees from four different universities: Bachelor of Arts (1993) from University of Western Ontario; Bachelor of Laws (1996) from University of Toronto Law School; Bachelor of Civil Law (1998) from McGill University Law School; and Master of Laws (2002) from University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College of Law.

Lorraine Spencer, Guidance Counselor for Cree School Board, handed out the Bursary College awards along with Deputy Grand Chief Iserhoff. They went to Corey Coon-Come and Conrad Mianscum.

There to present the Sports Excellence Awards was Brant Blackned, President of the Cree Nation Sports Academy.

The Sports Excellence Award (13-17 age category) went to Cody Petawabano for his hockey accomplishments. The 18-30 category award went to Nathaniel Bosum for his exploits in racing

In the 31-60 category award went to none other than Blackned himself. For a number of years, he played in pro hockey and runs the Cree Nation Sports Academy.

Kenny Mianscum, President of Cree Native Arts & Crafts Association, presented the Arts Award with the Deputy Grand Chief.

Everyone who watched the CBC in the late-1970s knows Adventures in Rainbow Country that starred Buckley Petawabano. He is also remembered for his role in the NFB film Cold Journey. Petawabano is a Cree communications pioneer and his award in the arts in well deserved.

Melissa Pash along with her band provided the evenings entertainment. Then the closing was done by Diane Ottereyes Reid, herself a pioneer in her own right in the Cree world. She is President and CEO of Aanischaaukamikw, the museum in Oujé-Bougoumou and is advisor to the Cree Nation Achievement Awards Foundation. After the awards, people were looking forward to the next day's golf tournament as they were looking to fill their teams in the foursomes.

A youth revolution through resolutions

Joshua Iserhoff on the Youth Annual General Assembly

by Amy German

Despite a summer of unseasonably cold weather, the Cree Nation Youth Council (CNYC) saw three days of brilliant sunshine for their Annual General Assembly and it was perhaps a good omen for positive change.

According to Joshua Iserhoff, CNYC's recently elected Youth Chief, this year's host community of Chisasibi pulled off their duties with ease, putting on an incredible event from August 14-16 on the island of Fort George.

"The AGA was really just an incredible experience. Chisasibi was unbelievable; they did just an amazing job. I could never have imagined that it could go this well," said Iserhoff.

Despite winning the position on May 31, Iserhoff hadn't been sworn in officially until the August AGA so that was one thing he was happy to have seen handled. Though the official, Kenneth Tanoush, was not available to swear in Iserhoff in person, the CNYC had Tanoush swear in Iserhoff over the phone.

Marking the transition of power, Iserhoff and his council passed a number of resolutions during those three days that will see a variety of changes for Cree youth throughout Eeeyou Istchee in terms of life and services. From a redistribution of portfolios to support for canoe brigades, Iserhoff took time from his busy schedule to discuss the 2012 resolutions with the *Nation*.

In an effort to share the wealth of the Cree Nation as well as engage the youth in life-changing charitable work and fundraising, the CNYC passed a resolution to support and partner with the Free the Children charitable organization.

Isheroff said he first learned of the organization from Cree Nation Justice Director Donald Nicholls and Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff. He was inspired to get the youth involved since part of Free the Children's mandate is having kids help kids.

"We have always wanted to do something that would see us branched out nationally and internationally and if we could work with an organization like Free the Children, it would be an incredible experience for our youth," said Iserhoff.

The kind of involvement that Iserhoff wants to foster includes fundraising to build new schools in impoverished nations.

Looking at ways to stimulate employment for the youth while sticking to the fundamentals of Cree values in protecting the land, the CNYC passed a resolution to see how they could participate in the implementation of environmental projects dedicated to sustainable development.

"This came about this year when I visited Wemindji and saw how incredibly green the community is and how clean it is as a result. I asked the council members about this and I was told that ever since the recycling project started there, they have purchased numerous machines for the program and started up all sorts of new employment as a result.

"I brought this up with our board of directors in July and they were incredibly receptive about what I had to say about coming up with a green project," said Iserhoff.

In the long run, the CNYC would like to see similar green projects started in every community using the Wemindji model and this is something that could be jumpstarted by the CNYC with the local environment departments.

> "IF YOU LOOK AROUND OUR COMMUNITIES, BEHIND EVERY HOUSE YOU WILL SEE A 45-GALLON DRUM, A DEAD SKIDOO AND MAYBE A DEAD CAR. THESE ARE ALL THINGS THAT CONTAIN RECYCLABLE MATERIALS AND HOPEFULLY THIS COULD BE A GOOD BUSINESS FOR THE YOUTH. AS I HAVE SAID IN THE PAST, THE CNYC IS A VERY EVENT-AND-PROGRAM-BASED ORGANIZATION AND WE WANT TO STEP UP TO THE NEXT LEVEL WHERE WE CAN INCORPORATE THINGS SO THAT WE CAN MAKE MONEY."

Iserhoff feels that promoting these kinds of projects is ideal as it is so in line with Cree values.

"If you look around our communities, behind every house you will see a 45-gallon drum, a dead skidoo and maybe a dead car. These are all things that contain recyclable materials and hopefully this could be a good business for the youth. As I have said in the past, the CNYC is a very event-and-program-based organization and we want to step up to the next level where we can incorporate things so that we can make money," said Iserhoff.

One of the biggest changes that Iserhoff will be implementing is a major shifting of responsibilities as local youth chiefs will now be working on the development of portfolios containing regional contacts for the different branches of the Cree Nation administration.

Iserhoff said he decided to push this idea forward after becoming the Youth Chief as the invitations to attend so many entity meetings within the Cree Nation have become absolutely overwhelming.

"Each of the entities wanted youth involvement and so this idea was introduced in July to share the tasks of going to these meetings with the individual community youth chiefs. I got the idea from the AFN's youth council; each of them has a portfolio, such as education or economic development, and they all report back to the AFN. So, I decided that this was a wonderful model to follow," said Iserhoff.

Under this new model, the local Chisasibi youth chief, for example, could be responsible for health as Chisasibi is home to the regional offices for the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay. Mistissini's youth chief could be responsible for the education portfolio because the Cree School Board's offices are in Mistissini.

Also looking at improving the CNYC's efficiency, it was decided to remove CNYC voting privileges from members of Senneterre as the community has been inactive for the past decade. But since the community had a vote, the CNYC was never able to reach quorum at their meetings. From now on Senneterre will only have observer status.

In an attempt to fine-tune the Youth Council, Iserhoff has made all Board of Directors meetings mandatory for all youth chiefs as well as coordinators.

"This is part of the new system and I think they will feel more validated. In the past, there have been major problems with attendance and so now we will have all of our board members showing up at meetings," said Iserhoff.

Another resolution was passed to ensure that the Youth Deputy Grand Chief becomes a salaried employee in the next fiscal year, addressing yet another matter that has been outstanding for some time.

While Isheroff has been learning the ropes of his new job over of the last few months, it came to his attention that the CNYC has an outstanding debt to the Cree Heritage Fund to the tune of $500,000.

It was resolved that Iserhoff consider various options to deal with the debt, which stems from the Royal Indigenous Youth Conference that the CNYC participated in about 20 years ago.

"I couldn't believe that so much money went out and that there are no books for it, but it's been deemed

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Chisasibi, James Bay

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- Bachelor's degree in Administration with a specialization in Finance and a C.A., C.G.A. or C.M.A. designation, or are working towards one;
- Knowledge of Quebec public administration financial management regulations;
- At least three years' experience in financial management in a health, social or public organization;
- Experience with MHSSQ programs and regulations for Financial, Human and Facilities Administration;
- Strong record of success in financial management and the proven ability to effectively supervise finance staff, organize operations and provide quality assurance for financial services;
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Chisasibi, James Bay

An integral member of the General Management Committee and Administrative Resources Management Committee, you will contribute to the planning, evaluation, support, organization, control and/or implementation of: sanitation, housekeeping, facility/equipment maintenance, energy/waste management, and communication, transportation and security systems. This role will see you manage staff, and provide professional services to line management for capital projects and material resources programming.

- Civil Engineer with four years of relevant experience OR holds any relevant university degree and has six years of experience in a similar management capacity;
- Knowledge of the MHSSQ material management regulations for a Regional Board and Establishment and/or familiar with the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, Section 14 is an asset;
- Strong record of success in administration and material management;
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Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

that the CNYC owes this money," said Iserhoff.

Iserhoff is determined to rectify this issue and ensure that the money is paid back before his term as Youth Grand Chief is over and so he will be seeking advice from within other Cree entities on how best to deal with the matter.

This however will not hinder the Youth Council from taking on other charitable projects to benefit Native youth across Canada. It was thus resolved that the CNYC fully support the Northern Starfish project in any way that they could.

As Isheroff explained, the Northern Starfish project is a charity started by a teen named Wesley Prankard, who Iserhoff met at the Waskaganish AGA in early August.

The goal of the organization is to build playgrounds in Native communities that are without them.

"He visited Attawapiskat with his grandfather and met the children there and when he asked them to go play in the playground he saw that they didn't have one. That is what motivated him to start up this foundation to raise money to build playgrounds on reserves across Canada," said Iserhoff.

"We invited him to our AGA in Chisasibi and I think he raised something like $3,800 just around the table."

The CNYC has already invited Prankard back to their next AGA to have a look at his progress.

Jeremy Diamond would be willing to spearhead this issue as he has a key interest in economic development, as was seen with the work he did with the Cree Nation Youth Business Symposium.

"It may be more relevant to have him address this issue with the CRA as the issue is so close to his heart. I will however assist him in achieving this mandate," said Isherhoff.

> "WE HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO SOMETHING THAT WOULD SEE US BRANCHED OUT NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY AND IF WE COULD WORK WITH AN ORGANIZATION LIKE FREE THE CHILDREN, IT WOULD BE AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE FOR OUR YOUTH."

There were other resolutions passed to address language issues within the Cree communities, support canoe brigades in each of the communities and look into the best ways to improve the socioeconomic outlook for youth within the Cree nation.

In terms of economic development, Isheroff said he was going to see if CNYC Communications Officer

These resolutions have created a solid blueprint for the year ahead for Isheroff and his council. Here are the resolutions for all of those interested in seeing what transpired. For more information or to get involved, contact your local youth council.

Youth Council Resolutions

The following are some abbreviated resolutions from the CNYC's AGA:

The position of a board member on the Cree Native Youth Council representing the Crees of Senneterre is invalidated and they will not have one until they are interested in having one.

The CNYC is still waiting to hear from the Grand Council of the Crees concerning their request for an annual salary for the Deputy Youth Grand Chief whose first installment is to be paid in April 2013.

The CNYC will consider various options to allow the CNYC to write off the $500,000 debt that they owe to the Cree Heritage Fund from the First World Indigenous Youth Conference

The members hereby express their full support in the fight to increase classes given in the Cree language to at least 50% both in primary and high school.

The CNYC express their wish to bring financial support to each Cree Nation in the organization of canoe trips in Eeyou Istchee in the foreseeable future.

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Members of the CNYC wish to see the Youth Grand Chief Joshua Iserhoff start a discussion with the CRA on creating economic programs for the Cree youth.

Full transcripts of the resolutions:

On a motion duly made by Mr. Johnny Mianscum and seconded by Mr. Freddie Dixon, it was resolved that the meeting adopts Resolution AGA1213-04:

WHEREAS the organization Free The Children is the world's largest network of children helping children through education, with more than one million youth involved in innovative education and development programs in 45 countries;

WHEREAS the primary goals of Free The Children are to free children from poverty and exploitation and free young people from the notion that they are powerless to affect positive change in the world;

WHEREAS Free The Children offers domestic empowerment programs and leadership training;

WHEREAS CNYC wishes to be proactive in the development of educational programs for the youth and in the eradication of poverty in the Eeyou Istchee territory;

WHEREAS it is one of the goal of CNYC to support and partner with other youth organizations;

IT IS RESOLVED:

THAT the members hereby approve that CNYC shall assess the possibility to establish a partnership with Free The Children in order to develop education programs;

THAT every local youth Chiefs shall be responsible to implement the said programs in their respective Cree Nation;

THAT CNYC shall try to obtain the collaboration of the Cree School Board to develop the said programs and to organize fundraising campaigns.

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Interested organizations must obtain a document titled *Conditions de référence* (available in French only) on this Web site: **www.marcon.qc.ca/mfr**.

The document describes the mandate, selection criteria and compensation method. It also includes an Expression of Interest form.

This Call for Expressions of Interest ends on **September 28 at 2 p.m.** MARCON may reject any Expressions of Interest received after that closing date and time.

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Delegation at the Cree Cultural Village in Ouje-Bougamou

Working together

Cree Economic Alliance encourages economic growth with tours

by Akiva Levitas

For three days August 21-23, the Secretariat to the Cree Nation Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance (SAENCAT), in association with the city of Amos, hosted a delegation of business people from the surrounding area to showcase Cree business and opportunities.

The delegation's composition was a highly diverse group of 16 businesspeople ranging from tourism, sales and hotels to surveying, engineering and electromechanics. The participants were given the chance to meet with key figures and organizations in each of the Cree communities.

The trip itself was not the first of its kind. Since 2002, SAENCAT has been organizing these junkets in the belief that establishing relationships between the communities is the basis for stronger growth in the region.

The junket went to the Cree communities of Waswanipi, Mistissini and Oujé-Bougoumou, and included a visit to the Langlois Mining Project located near Lebel-sur-Quévillon.

In Waswanipi, the delegation was introduced to Chief Paul Gull and various band council members, who gave the visitors a detailed explanation of the objectives of different Cree corporations and development projects in the community. In Mistissini, the group toured the band office and met with several local companies. Later Deputy Chief John Matoush discussed community development with the delegation.

The purpose of the trip was to create links between the Cree and the Abitibi-Témiscamingue communities to promote faster growth north of the 49th Parallel and to further the mutual cooperation between them.

The Secretariat to the Cree Nation Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance was created in 2002 after the "Gateway to Building Economic Channels" symposium, which took place between the Cree communities and the people of the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region.

Through the promotion of trade and cooperation, Cree cultural notions and practices begin to take

their place as a tool to bridge the gap between both cultures. One of the main purposes of this junket was to confer on the business people the importance of respect when conducting business with their Cree partners.

In studies published by SAENCAT, they have found an increase in economic activity between local businesses and Cree organizations, such as band councils, as well as businesses and individuals.

Many of the businesses that have had an increase in relations with their Cree neighbours have done so because of SAENCAT. Thanks to the annual events and cultural business trips they organize, SAENCAT has made a lasting impression on Abitibi-Témiscamingue's business community.

"SAENCAT is a first in both Quebec and Canada, making it the envy of many regions," said SENCAT coordinator Pierre Ouellet, "It is the best equipped organization for establishing relations between the Cree and the business community of Abitibi-Témiscamingue and it will continue to grow more and more."

The trip to the Langlois Mining Project was organized in collaboration with the Economic Development Department of Amos. In August 2011, Nyrstar finalized their acquisition of the Langlois Mine, which began commercial production in early 2012.

The delegation was given a tour of the facility and had the opportunity to learn about Nyrstar's operations and prospects for the future of the zinc-and-copper mine. A surprise visit by Pascal Hamelin, the Vice President of Operations at Ressources Metanor Inc, opened even more connections to the group.

In regards to the junket, Amos Mayor Ulrick Chérubin said, "Long ago we worked to establish good relationships with our Cree friends. This mission is from the perspective of maintaining these links and promote our full potential."

The delegation even tried their hand at fishing in Oujé-Bougoumou

Meeting with the Mayor of Amos

Delegation meeting with Waswanipi Chief Paul Gull and Amos Mayor Ulrick Chérubin

CREE HOCKEY NEWS & NOTES

The 2012-2013 season gets underway

by Daniel Coyle

Andrew Kistabish

As the first day of autumn approaches, so do the first games of the 2012-2013 hockey season. While we may not have any NHL games to watch for a while, there is still lots of action to report on.

Waskaganish's Alex Hester has signed to play this season with Les Loups de La Tuque of the Quebec Junior AAA Hockey League. After a successful 2011-2012 season, which included a regular season with Les Forestiers d'Amos, playing a key role on the Eastern Door & North squad at the 2012 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC), and being selected to participate in Hit the Ice, an APTN reality TV show set at a hockey training camp, Hester chose to join Les Loups over returning to Midget AAA, so as to better prepare himself for a shot at the QMJHL next season.

Hester will have at least one familiar face in the dressing room, as Eastern Door & North teammate Andrew Kistabish returns to La Tuque. Kistabish, an Algonquin, will be entering his second season with Les Loups, the organization he joined last year after being one of the final cuts at the training camp of the eventual 2012 Memorial Cup champion Shawinigan Cataractes.

For Hester's older brother Brett, his time to shine in the QMJHL appears to have arrived. Following a solid training camp, during which Brett accompanied his Val-d'Or Foreurs teammates on a tour of Eastmain, Wemindji and Nemaska, where they spent time training with a number of Cree hockey players, it looks like Brett has locked up a roster spot on the club.

"(Brett) is a power forward who can do a variety of things on the ice and it will be up to him to prove he can do it, to the point where we will not have the choice but to give him increased responsibilities," said Foreurs' coach Marc-André Dumont

Barring any last-minute changes, Brett will be in the Foreurs lineup when the team opens their 2012-2013 campaign at home versus the Victoriaville Tigres.

Deverick Ottereyes of the PEI Rocket

Joining Brett on the Foreurs' roster is forward Charlie Tukkiapik, an 18-year-old Inuit from Kuujjuaq, Quebec. Tukkiapik, who played for the Cree Nation Bears in 2010 and for Eastern Door & North at the 2011 NAHC, will be making his Major Junior Hockey debut.

Hester and Tukkiapik are not the only Aboriginal players to break camp with a QMJHL team. Waswanipi's Deverick Ottereyes looks set to return to the PEI Rocket for his second QMJHL season. Ottereyes scored two goals and four assists during 41 games in a largely defensive role as a rookie last season. However, Ottereyes, who turns 18 in October, is expected to take on more of an offensive role on a Rocket squad that many expect will be much improved this season.

Mark March 1, 2013, on your calendar as the date that Ottereyes' PEI Rocket squad rolls into Val-d'Or to face off against Hester, Tukkiapik and the Foreurs. No doubt there will be more than one busload from Eeyou Istchee rolling into Val-d'Or that day for the game.

Vern Cooper of Waswanipi has not yet given up on hockey following an injury-plagued season with the Missouri Mavericks of the Central Hockey League. The 21-year-old Cooper, who enjoyed a solid five-year Major Junior career in the Ontario Hockey League with the Plymouth Whalers and the Soo Greyhounds, is attending Nipissing University in North Bay, Ontario, and will suit up with the Nipissing Lakers, the university's entry in OUA men's hockey.

"I'm very excited to begin my post-secondary education at Nipissing and to be joining the Lakers hockey team for this coming season. My goal is to be successful off the ice as well as on the ice," said Cooper. "I am looking to help the team get to the next level, which is to challenge for a championship."

The Lakers visit Montreal to face off against Concordia and McGill November 23-24, and will close out their 28-game regular season February 8-9 with road games against Carleton and the University of Ottawa.

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Roderick Pachano, who was born in a teepee out on the land, stands for election for Chairperson of the Cree Health Board. He understands and was involved in the negotiations of the JBNQA in 1975. He has worked for the Cree Nation since then in many positions of **leadership**.

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Board of Compensation bonus

The BOC distributes one-time stimulus packages throughout Eeyou Istchee

by Amy German

While it may not be Christmas yet, the Board of Compensation was all about giving this year after they distributed large one-time sums to each of the Cree communities and to several of the entities in the hopes of getting the Cree economy moving.

This announcement was made at the Cree Annual General Assembly in August, but the Nation wanted to look into the matter a little further.

According to the Board's Jack Blacksmith, for 2012-2013 each of the communities has received $500,000 to go towards economic development. Additional monies were distributed as part of the BOC's administration fund.

"This $500,000 was originally geared towards economic development. Within our resolution we say that we are not going to determine what economic development means as each community has their own means of determining what is best to help develop their own economies," said Blacksmith.

In past years, Blacksmith said the BOC would distribute large sums to the communities for capital works projects, like the $9 million handed out over the last nine years. But this year, they had it within their resources to hand out one-time lump sums.

"This was done many years ago. When we looked at the economic development sector, we figured that we could give all of the monies in one shot and give each community $500,000. This $500,000 per community works out to around $4.5 million in total. These are stimulus packages," said Blacksmith.

The communities will not have to report back to the BOC on these packages. The principal distribution of the funds is based on the same format as the community fund.

"WITHIN OUR RESOLUTION WE SAY THAT WE ARE NOT GOING TO DETERMINE WHAT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEANS AS **EACH COMMUNITY HAS THEIR OWN MEANS OF DETERMINING WHAT IS BEST TO HELP DEVELOP THEIR OWN ECONOMIES**."

In addition to each community receiving a one-time stimulus package, the entities within the Cree Nation also benefited, with the Cree Trappers' Association (CTA) receiving $300,000. Blacksmith said the CTA in turn redistributed the funds to the individual communities with funding based on per capita needs and for local cultural projects.

According to Blacksmith, the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association (COTA) was given $300,000 and the Cree Nation Youth Council was given $250,000 for their operations plus an additional $50,000 via the Cree Regional Authority.

The Cree Native Arts Association was given $100,000, the James Bay Cree Communication Society was awarded $81,000 and the Cree Nation Bears organization received $91,000.

For their administration, the Washaw Sibi community was given $86,000 and the Regional Elders' Council and Regional Elders' Conference were sent a cheque for $117,000, with Traditional Pursuits getting $125,000 for local cultural projects.

Charged up

Niskamoon's program with Hydro-Québec sends graduates to work

by Jesse Staniforth

A few years back, Charles Bobbish Jr. wanted to get out of Chisasibi. He didn't have much work, and the jobs he did get were only as a replacement. To fill the time, he did a lot of drinking and partying.

"I was at home," he says, "Nothing to do. I really wanted to go somewhere instead of staying in Chisasibi. I wasn't doing anything, wasn't moving forward. I wanted to accomplish something."

This past June, Bobbish became one of this year's seven graduates of the Niskamoon Corporation's Technical Employment with Hydro-Québec (TEHQ) program, a two-year full-time education in hydro-electric basics. In late September, he will fly to LG-4 to begin his career as a Hydro-Québec electrician.

When the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement was signed in 1975, it contained provisions guaranteeing jobs for Crees with Hydro-Québec. Because that agreement came out of the difficult struggle between the Crees and the Quebec government over the imposition of dams on Eeyou Istchee ancestral lands, the jobs were supposed to help balance the damage to communities caused by the destruction of traplines.

However, even by the 1990s, says Niskamoon President Violet Pachano, nothing much was happening when it came to Crees getting technical employment from Hydro-Québec.

"It took a few years to get it started," Pachano says.

Though the mid-1990s saw the beginning of joint Cree–Hydro-Québec training-and-employment efforts, the effort didn't last long. At the beginning of the 21st century, there was still no program offering technical training for Crees.

All that changed with the signing of the Paix des Braves and the Apatisiiwin Agreement in 2002. The Apatisiiwin Agreement called for the employment of a total 150 Crees by the end of March, 2017. When the Niskamoon Corporation was established in 2004 to handle dealings between the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and Hydro-Québec, they

photo courtesy of CYCLOPESPHOTOS.

Graduates: Peterson Brien, Greg Jolly, Stephanie Jolly, Annie Martinhunter, Charles Bobbish, Patrick Kistabish, Billy Kistabish-Coté

organized the TEHQ program in partnership with the Cree School Board.

Naturally, a partnership between Crees and Hydro-Québec was sure to have some tension.

"At the beginning," says Pachano, "we went through difficult times because we had to educate Hydro-Québec and the people involved in the training. But we worked through that and our goal was always that we're supposed to be in this together, we're partners. We'll do it. People are maybe surprised that we're partnering with Hydro-Québec, but we have to lay aside all the political stuff and look at the agreement for the Crees. We do have to do a lot of work. But it's smoothing out a bit because people are getting adjusted and accustomed to it."

Based in Rouyn-Noranda, the program offers two years of hands-on education in the technical skills required for a career at Hydro-Québec. As well, it provides French-language training (since most Hydro-Québec work is conducted in French), and other additional background education sometimes needed by those who begin the program.

"Some people, they get registered and accepted into the program, but they still need some academic upgrading," says Pachano. "They have to go through that as well. And of course there's the French – that's a definite. So they go through all the prerequisites."

To date, the program has placed 54 graduates in permanent positions with Hydro-Québec. That doesn't account for every graduate.

"There are a few graduates who aren't working for Hydro-Québec," Pachano says. "Those are people who finished the program but were picked up by someone else. We don't force them to work for Hydro-Québec if they don't want to!"

With 54 TEHQ-trained workers in the system, that adds up to just over a third of the goal of 150 set for five years from now.

"The program will probably need to be reviewed and extended if we want to reach that number," says Pachano, who adds that Niskamoon is trying their hardest to get as many people through the program and into Hydro work as they can, though there are a number of factors that make the program a challenge.

"It's difficult when students first go [down to Rouyn-Noranda]," she says. "A lot of them have families. They have to leave their families behind. But for those that are in the program and working, most of them, they're very glad and happy, and they're guaranteed a permanent job, as long as they meet the criteria of any Hydro-Québec worker."

Bobbish says he found the program to be an excellent education.

"I wanted to try out something new, and I wanted to know what it feels like to work with Hydro-Québec, a big company. It was interesting, hands-on training."

When he flies out to LG-4 on September 27, Bobbish says, he's not at all nervous that he'll be unprepared for the work.

"They train you for what you're going to do," he says. "We worked a lot with electricity, troubleshooting, and all that."

Violet Pachano

For all the success in training, a large part of making the program run smoothly is simply getting the word out.

"We're getting more now graduates because we do recruitment," Pachano says. "We had to do that to get people interested. We've been going to communities and having information sessions, going to schools, and trying to prepare them. The first [TEHQ students] who started out, maybe only some of them finished high school, so they had to do some upgrading. Now we try to catch people's interests while some are in high school."

The pay-off, says Bobbish, is worth it.

"I have four kids. I have a career with Hydro-Québec, so I can provide a lot of things for my family. I'm not going to have to ask for money from anyone else. In the future I want to go down south so my kids can finish school down there. I did it for my kids. It was my second chance. This time I was serious. I put my mind to it. I didn't miss a single class – I wasn't even late, for two years."

"**PEOPLE ARE MAYBE SURPRISED THAT WE'RE PARTNERING WITH HYDRO-QUÉBEC, BUT WE HAVE TO LAY ASIDE ALL THE POLITICAL STUFF AND LOOK AT THE AGREEMENT FOR THE CREES.** WE DO HAVE TO DO A LOT OF WORK. BUT IT'S SMOOTHING OUT A BIT BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE GETTING ADJUSTED AND ACCUSTOMED TO IT."

Buying some time

Getting the Atikamekw official recognition

by Mark Della Posta

photo by Karline Paul

Chief Paul-Émile Ottawa of Manawan, Chief Christian Awashish of Opitciwan and Chief David Boivin of Wemotaci

The Atikamekw Nation announced on August 31 that they have come to an agreement in principle with the Quebec government, giving the two sides almost a full calendar year to negotiate a deal that would allow for the Atikamekw to be officially recognized as a distinct nation.

On June 26, the Atikamekw Nation launched a campaign to gain full recognition as an independent First Nation, with rights to their ancestral lands in the Nataskinan region of the Upper Mauricie Valley. The campaign was sparked by the logging operations of Kruger Inc. and the perceived preferential treatment that the company was receiving from the provincial government. It was one that saw the Atikamekw set up a number of roadblocks on its territory, preventing Kruger from continuing its operations.

As mentioned in the July 27 edition of the *Nation*, the three Atikamekw leaders – Chief Christian Awashish of Opitciwan, Chief David Boivin of Wemotaci, and Chief Paul-Émile Ottawa of Manawan – along with their communities, decided to lift the roadblocks and cease pressure tactics while negotiations were ongoing.

The communities had set an August 30 deadline for a substantive agreement to be reached.

According to Awashish, speaking on behalf of all three communities, the agreement gives the two sides a starting point to work from for the next year.

"We're pushing the more concrete elements of the negotiations to a later date," he said. "The two sides have come to a general agreement on the questions of royalty payments and access to forestry resources, but it hasn't materialized to any exact number yet."

Awashish added that the government, in principle, agreed to just about everything the Atikamekw had demanded over the summer, specifically issues regarding the independent management of the territory. He also added that the official recognition of the Atikamekw Nation and its territory will be negotiated over the coming weeks.

"In terms of gaining control of the territory, being able to run our territory independently, and in terms of effecting change, this is a start," said Awashish. "Now we have until July 21 of next year to come to an agreement. That's when we'll be able to appreciate any real gains we make."

Although happy with the progress achieved thus far, Awashish explained that the Atikamekw Nation is still far from being content.

"We wanted to have concrete results by now," he said. "We wanted logging volumes, we wanted a defined royalty system. We agreed to push it to next year. We decided to make a compromise. We decided to give them a chance and give a chance to this new government.

"But I can feel that the winds are changing," he said.

Of course, with the Liberal Party losing control of the National Assembly, the fate of these negotiations remains up in the air. Despite the uncertain future of the provincial government, and its stance on the Atikamekw Nation, Awashish remains confident that a concrete agreement can be reached.

"I can tell you that, regardless of what government we've negotiated with over the years, we've seen that it's essentially bureaucrats that control the process," he said. "And after listening to Madame (Pauline) Marois speak, I'm optimistic that we can change the way these bureaucrats work.

"Over the past few years, having difficulty to effect change has become a norm," he added. "With a new government, we want to change that norm and become their partners [rather than their adversaries]."

Despite this turning point in the negotiations with the government, Awashish warned that this agreement in principle won't, and shouldn't, be used as a way of putting the Atikamekw people and their concerns on the back burner.

"For the moment, we've stopped all of our pressure tactics," he said. "But we can always start them up again if we see that the negotiations aren't evolving in a way that we're satisfied with."

Thou shall not judge

A story of one man's tribulations

by Ron Sheshamush

One autumn evening I was patrolling the streets of Whapmagoostui and I was hurting and crying in my heart. I have been a special constable for a little over a year now and I lost many friends. They turned against me. But this was not the reason why I was hurting. I missed my two daughters who were living with their mother in Mistissini at that time. I so wanted to hug my little girls again. The pain was unbearable.

As I came around the corner of this gravel road I heard a church bell ring. I turned right and I saw the Anglican Church by the riverbank. I stopped and asked myself whether I should go to church or not. For a moment, I was unenthusiastic, but I managed to pull myself together and go anyway, even if it was going to kill me. I leisurely pulled up to the parking lot and parked the navy-blue patrol vehicle.

As I entered the House of God, heads turned and many eyes stared right at me. I took a seat at the very back, bowed down and I began to pray. I asked God to take this pain away from me, as I could literally feel the heaviness in my heart. There was a reception of the Blessed Sacrament, the Holy Communion that night.

When it was time, I stood up and I walked up to the altar to receive communion. I could feel many eyes looking at me as I inched my way up the Altar. I kneeled and hung my head, placed my hands together with one hand over the other facing up.

The clergyman with a long-sleeved, white garment took out a small, round white bread from the cup and placed it on the palm of my hand and he said the words of consecration, "Take this bread and eat of it: for this is my body which will be given up for you." I ate the bread and whispered, "Amen." The clergyman holding the Cup of Christ came up to me and held it against my lips and said to me, "Take this and drink from it: for this is the chalice of my blood." I took a sip of that Blessed, fine, red wine and whispered again, "Amen." I then went back to my seat to pray more and ask for forgiveness for all the mistakes I made in my life.

When the service was over I was the last one to leave. As I walked out the door that beautiful evening there was no more pain and the heaviness in my heart had been lifted. I felt joyful. I had a smile on my face again. I knew that my prayers were heard and have been answered.

"ONE DAY WHILE OUT HUNTING FOR CANADA GEESE I TOOK A MOMENT TO BREAK FROM THE HUNT AND PRAY. IN THE OPEN FIELDS OF GRANITE ROCK AND MARSHES I SAT DOWN BY THIS STONE COVERED WITH BLACK, CRISPY FLAKES."

The next day I was shocked to hear that I was the talk of the town. The Cree were mocking me and accused me of not respecting the Church by entering the House of God in my police uniform. They said to one another, "Did you hear what he did? He brought a gun to Church last night. He shouldn't dress like that in Church. He was just showing off because he is a cop. He makes me sick! He's so proud of himself! He thinks he's all that!" I could not believe what I was hearing. "People are still judging me at Church?" I asked myself. I was troubled.

But one day while out hunting for Canada Geese I took a moment to break

from the hunt and pray. In the open fields of granite rock and marshes I sat down by this stone covered with black, crispy flakes. With my hands joined together in a prayer position, I asked God, "Why these horrible persecutions at your House? How can people be so cruel? What have I done to deserve this?" I prayed for Him to give me strength and courage not to give up.

A few days later as I was out walking I was given the knowledge and understanding in a blink of an eye why people were judging me. I remembered what Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be troubled when the world hates you. Remember, it hated Me first."

I then asked myself, "Not everyone loved Jesus when he walked the earth, so why should everyone love me?" I was troubled no more. God Bless.

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged." Matthew 7:1

OFFRE D'EMPLOI

MUNICIPALITÉ DE
Baie-James

TRÉSORIER

Située en plein cœur du Plan Nord, la **Municipalité de Baie-James** qui couvre actuellement plus de 23 % du territoire québécois, est à la recherche d'un trésorier. Sous l'autorité du directeur général, le titulaire de ce poste planifie, dirige, coordonne et contrôle l'enregistrement, l'analyse et l'interprétation de toutes les activités comptables et financières de la Municipalité conformément aux principes comptables reconnus, aux politiques en vigueur et aux lois gouvernementales en assurant une saine gestion des ressources financières, matérielles et humaines.

Plus spécifiquement, il est responsable des activités reliées aux budgets d'opération et d'immobilisations, à la préparation des états financiers et leur vérification, à la planification des besoins financiers de la Municipalité ainsi qu'au contrôle des activités courantes : évaluation, taxation, perception, comptabilité, paie, achats, comptes payables, informatique et assurances générales.

Lieu de travail principal : Matagami

EXIGENCES

- Diplôme d'études universitaires de premier cycle dans une discipline appropriée.
- Cinq (5) à huit (8) années d'expérience dans une fonction similaire.
- Maîtrise de la langue française et anglaise.
- Jugement, sens des responsabilités, esprit d'analyse et initiative.
- Capacité à travailler en équipe et à maintenir de bonnes relations de travail.
- Maîtrise des applications Windows et Office 2007.
- Connaissance du système PG Megagest de gestion municipale, un atout.
- Faire preuve de rigueur et de discrétion.
- Disponible pour des déplacements sur le territoire municipal.

Rémunération et avantages sociaux concurrentiels selon la politique du personnel cadre de la Municipalité.

Les personnes intéressées doivent faire parvenir leur curriculum vitae au plus tard le 28 septembre à l'adresse suivante :

Ressources humaines
Municipalité de Baie-James
110, boul. Matagami C.P. 500
Matagami (Québec) J0Y 2A0
Télécopieur : 819-739-2713
Courriel : lfavreau@villembj.ca

Venez relever le défi de Baie-James !

Dans ce texte, le genre masculin est utilisé sans aucune discrimination, mais seulement dans le but de l'alléger.

by Lyle Stewart

"**DON'T FORGET: PAULINE MAROIS IS THE FIRST WOMAN ELECTED AS PREMIER OF QUEBEC, A PROVINCE THAT WAS THE LAST JURISDICTION IN NORTH AMERICA, IN 1940**, TO FINALLY GRANT WOMEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE. EVEN IN MODERN-DAY QUEBEC, THERE ARE STILL MANY PEOPLE OF BOTH SEXES WHO HAVE DIFFICULTY ACCEPTING A WOMAN AS THEIR SUPERIOR."

A dramatic debut

Moments of crisis inevitably provide a revealing glimpse of a person's true strength of character. Whatever else one may think of newly elected Quebec Premier Pauline Marois (and I've never been a fan of her personality, politics or leadership style), most people watching the live coverage of her victory speech September 4 had to be impressed by her steely composure and resolve after the shocking attack on the event by a deranged gunman.

While she wasn't aware then that one of the two people shot by the man who would also set fire to the Metropolis nightclub had died, Marois must have realized that she had just narrowly escaped an assassin's bullet. Thus, her courage in returning to the stage to urge people to remain calm and exit the building in an orderly manner revealed a human trait that deserves respect.

Unfortunately, the television image during that unscripted instant of raw reality was marred by the inane paternalism of the event's emcee, the marginal Quebec actor Yves Desgagnés. Trying to appear protective of Quebec's new leader in a transparent attempt to steal a bit of the spotlight at a transfixing historical moment, he persisted in hugging Marois tightly under his arm as she spoke to the crowd of roughly 2000 supporters.

It was an awkward, embarrassing display that Marois stoically endured without obvious annoyance. If she hadn't performed as well as she did at this defining moment for her premiership, however, it could have seriously weakened the all-important initial public perception of her strength as a leader. The lasting impression would have been difficult to undo: one of a fragile female who needed the support and protection of a man to do her job. Desgagnés could have done Marois – and, by extension, all political women – lasting political damage in their ongoing struggle to be taken seriously in a system that is stacked against them.

Quebec Premier Pauline Marois

Don't forget: Pauline Marois is the first woman elected as premier of Quebec, a province that was the last jurisdiction in North America, in 1940, to finally grant women the right to vote. Even in modern-day Quebec, there are still many

people of both sexes who have difficulty accepting a woman as their superior. One wonders if this lingering bias played a role in the PQ's extremely narrow victory in an otherwise favourable political context.

Certainly, the popular vote and seat count for the PQ had to have been disappointing, barely outpacing Jean Charest's Liberals on either score despite his party's corruption scandals and the stale odour of a government that was past its due date. Indeed, having vastly exceeded expectations, Charest gave a rousing concession speech despite the painful loss of his own riding of Sherbrooke. And until security guards rushed the premier-elect off the stage of the Metropolis in a jaw-dropping and confusing scene of drama, Marois sounded uninspired and almost defeated. The irony is that the incident ultimately gave her authority and purpose.

The instant credibility would be a shield the very next day as she signaled her intention to move quickly and forcefully to put her stamp on government policy. In her first announcement, she reversed the Liberals' divisive university tuition hikes and said she would immediately repeal the repressive "Special Law" that gave police in Quebec vast power to stifle almost any public event with political message. Instead of the Liberals' aggressive and nasty campaign against students and their parents, Marois also announced that she would call an Estates General for a calm and reasoned discussion on the future of the education system.

These moves are welcome and inspiring after the battles of the spring and summer. Other PQ policy planks will improve life here as well: a vastly expanded public daycare system (up to 15,000 new spaces) to deal with the long waiting lists of desperate parents; increased royalties on mining companies that are granted immense wealth in the exploitation of public resources; and the elimination of a regressive tax on healthcare that cost the same amount whether you were rich or poor.

We will see if Marois continues to appeal to her party's xenophobic hard core as she did with election campaign promises to forbid francophones from attending English-language Cegeps. Likewise, her party's proposed "Charter of Secularism," which would ban any displays of religious identity by public servants (except, of course for the Catholic cross that hangs over the National Assembly), would immediately enshrine government discrimination against religious minorities.

We will see. In the meantime, Marois has made a solid debut as Quebec premier, even before she has been officially sworn into power. Given her government's minority status, she won't have the freedom to run roughshod over people's rights, nor trigger a third referendum on sovereignty. Her focus will be on providing good government with an eye on the next election. And for us, for now, that will be a welcome turnout after the turmoil of the past few years.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

We are very proud to announce that Mr. Mark Wadden will be joining our team, effective September 10th, 2012, in the capacity of Vice President of Business Development in order to pursue and develop business opportunities on behalf of VCC Massénor Inc.

Mr. Wadden is fluent in the French, English and Cree languages and he comes to us with experience in the construction industry and in the administration of various enterprises.

We ask that you welcome him and offer him your total collaboration to help him pursue the activities and the objectives he will be undertaking on behalf of our company

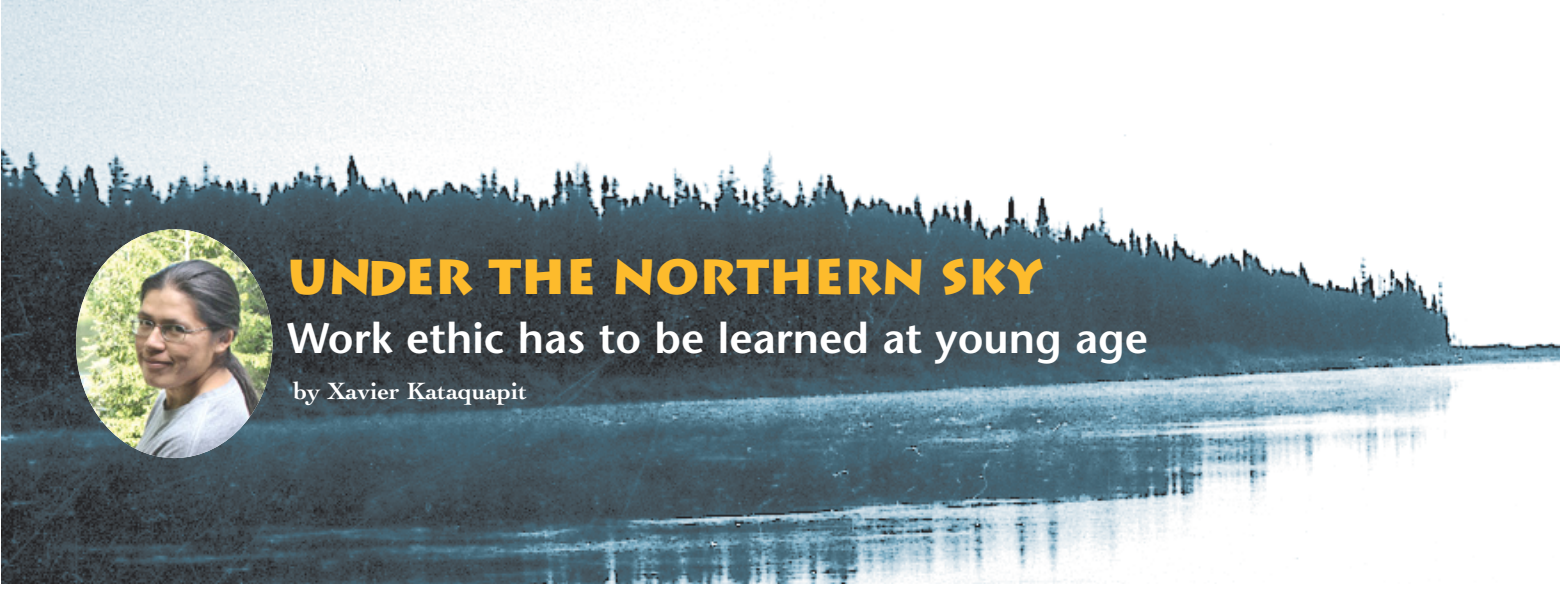
Thank you.

Mr. Mark Wadden

VCC MASSÉNOR

Head Office
42 Maquata Rd. Wemindji, QC J0M 1L0
Tel: (819) 978-3335 Fax: (819) 978-3330

Administrative Office
1337 Turcotte, C.P. 1786 Val-d'Or, QC J9P 6C5
Tel: (819) 824-9587 Fax: (819) 824-4827



UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Work ethic has to be learned at young age

by Xavier Kataquapit

This week a friend of mine stepped on a nail and had to get a tetanus shot. It reminded me of the many times I injured myself as a child growing up back home in Attawapiskat. I was always around the family construction business and by the time I was 12, I was driving a half-ton truck around town and operating tractors. You can imagine the close calls I had at that early age, but that is what life was like back there in those wild days up north.

We kids were always expected to pitch in and help as soon as we were old enough to pick stuff up, carry things around, hammer a nail or split wood. Often while doing these chores we were injured in one way or the other and most of the time it was not serious. However, we were also very concerned about getting hurt because there was no fulltime doctor in the community, although we had lots of competent nurses and a good hospital.

My first injury was a very severe one when I broke my leg at the age of seven. Actually, the break involved both of the bones below my knee. I was helping my brothers push our half-ton truck out of ice and snow when a bit of plywood that was under the tires for traction spun back and caught me in the legs. I was in the hospital for a while and had a cast on for six months.

Also in those early teen years I broke small bones in my hands and wrists working on construction projects and playing sports. It seemed like I was always covered in bandages as I continually ended up with scrapes, cuts and bruises on my legs, arms and body. By the time I was 18 I felt like a seasoned carpenter, heavy machinery operator, transportation driver and general labourer. Come to think about it, my actual childhood and play period was very brief as I spent most of my time working.

You might think that I would regret this but in fact I am very grateful to my family for giving me a good amount of experience in many areas and for providing me with a good work ethic. I am never bored as I am constantly writing, reading, working in media and, of course, I still get down and dirty in all types of labour at home and at the cottage.

I love cutting down old trees and the challenge that this offers and I also like splitting wood. You won't catch me with one of those automatic wood splitters because this type of labour is like a meditation for me. The feeling of working all day and being tired from doing something very beneficial to my life and the lives of others makes my day. Putting on a fire at night thanks to my efforts in wood cutting and splitting is very satisfying. Building something I can be proud of and that gives me shelter and comfort is a joy for me.

This week I found myself teaching my friend Rene how to split wood. He did his best to chop away at the old poplar and pine logs and I think he was surprised that he could actually accomplish this very important activity. It seemed to me that he understood that all-important link between doing good work with the result of providing warmth for the family cottage. People need to learn about and work at developing a work ethic from a young age. We live in a world of visual electronics where you can almost live a virtual life so it is more important than ever to remind young people around us that nothing is free and that it is important to work smart and continually make life rewarding.

We just don't see the connection of effort to the things we receive to live these days. When we are hungry, we simply go to the grocery store and buy what we need and these stores in the south stay open 24 hours. When we need warmth, we just turn up a dial. When we need entertainment, we turn to television or the internet and the computer. Nothing seems to require real effort and I know a lot of parents who make life so easy for their kids that the understanding of a work ethic is missing. That is a tragedy.

I am happy. I grew up with the necessity of having to learn how to build things, work on engines, chop wood, harvest game and birds for food and contribute to the comforts of my life with real hands-on efforts. To tell the truth, I have paid much with all the injuries I have received over the years for the working knowledge I have, but I wear these scars like medals. I am proud of my love for work.

CLASSIFIEDS

BIRTHDAYS

A big boy in Whapmagoostui will be celebrating his 6th birthday on September 14th, 2012. Happy birthday to our son, Tony Max Menarick-Alisappi. We know you'll enjoy your party cause there will be a lot of food and goodies!! We love you lots chub. Many many more birthdays ahead from Mom and Dad xoxoxox

ANNIVERSARIES

Wishing a Happy 35th Wedding Anniversary to my loving parents, Stanley & Doreen Shashaweskum on September 21st.Hope you enjoy your day and Thank you for all the years that you have been there for us. With love; hugs & kisses, Sabrina, Isaac & Faith <3

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Starting September 24th, submit your idea for community change.

The Aviva Community Fund is Canada's longest running online community competition. With over $2.5 million dollars given away to date, the Aviva Community Fund is making a difference in communities across the country. Submit your idea for positive change and have a chance at sharing in this year's $1 million Aviva Community Fund.

For more info go to http://www.avivacommunityfund.org/

2nd Annual Aboriginal Awareness Week - September 24-28 2012

The week offers an opportunity to discover and learn about Aboriginal peoples in Canada.It will include an exploration of legal definitions of Aboriginal peoples in Canada, their struggle for recognition as a nation, as well as a look how Aboriginal peoples define themselves and where they stand in the international stage.

Browse through the week's activities-from the opening and closing ceremony-to an excursion to the Kahnawake Cultural Centre. We invite you to discover and learn about Aboriginal peoples of Canada; their histories, their cultures and about contemporary issues.

To kick-start the week, Friday September 21 is the date of the 11th Annual Pow-Wow, located on lower campus, hosted by the First Peoples' House.

Visit our Website for the week's schedule:
http://aboriginalnetwork.mcgill.ca/

Where to get help: bilingual, anonymous, confidential and free phone services, 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Kid's Help Phone Line: 1-800-668-6868 (www.kidshelpphone.ca)

Youth Helpline: 1-800-263-2266 (www.teljeunes.com)

Parents' Helpline: 1-800-361-5085 (www.parenthelpline.ca)

Missing Children's Network: They'll help you find kids who have run away or disappeared. 514-843-4333 (www.enfant-retourquebec.ca)

Drug Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.drogue-aideref-erence.qc.ca)

Gambling Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.info-ref-erence.qc.ca)

S.O.S. Conjugal Violence: 1-800-363-9010 (www.sosviolenceconjugale.com)

Health and Sexuality Resources Center: 1-888-855-7432 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) (www.criss.org)

Gay Helpline: 1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal: 1-866-403-4688 (www.nwsm.info)

Suicide Action Québec: 1-866-277-3553 (www.suicide-quebec.net/)

Residential School Survivors: A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources

Concordia University, Montreal:

The Centre for Native Education has changed its name to the Aboriginal Student Resource Centre (ASRC). The new name is inclusive of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis students the centre serves and recognizes its role as a resource for the Concordia community. For any further details contact: aboriginalcentre@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424 ext. 7327.

Seeking family for Lily and Rose

Last week, a family who was going to offer a home to Lily and Rose, two beautiful six-months-old twins, decided to pull out. So Lily and Rose are desperately in need for a new home. They are part Cree, part Innu and they urgently need to find a culturally adapted family.

Lily and Rose are two healthy little babies and they need to be placed by mid-October. The family who will offer a home to these girls needs to contact Cathy Carroll from the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres as soon as possible. The family will have to be assessed by Batshaw.

If you think that you can offer a culturally adapted home to Lily and Rose or you might know someone who would, then please contact Cathy at 514-932-7161 ext. 1203.

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Marketing Consultation ⚙ Researching and Reporting ⚙ Film and Video Production
Publication and Production ⚙ Illustrating and Proofreading
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